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*Reports from Berlin—Great Britain's regulations against rats and plague.*BERLIN, GERMANY, *July 25, 1901.*

SIR: I have the honor to submit herewith an extract from the publications of the imperial health office at Berlin. (No. 29, July 17, 1901.)

GREAT BRITAIN.—Regulations issued by the local government board *re* ship-borne rats and plague:

In view of the susceptibility of the rat to plague, and of risk therefore of importation into this country by shipping plague-infected rats, sanitary authorities of seaports should be on the alert to prevent introduction of the disease into their districts in this way.

1. On the arrival in port of a vessel whereon, during the voyage, plague or sickness suspected to be plague has occurred, measures should be taken to secure the destruction of the rats on board the vessel. Until this has been done, endeavor should be made to prevent rats leaving the ship, by mooring the vessel a sufficient distance from other ships and from the shore, and by placing guards on cables and hawsers in use for mooring purposes.

2. In the case of vessels that have come from places infected with plague or suspected of infection, but on board of which no plague or suspected plague has occurred, strict inquiry should be made on their arrival in port as to mortality or sickness among rats during the voyage. Should this have occurred, the authority would do well to obtain the body of a sick rat for the purpose of ascertaining the nature of the malady affecting those animals on board the vessels. In the event of the malady being found to be plague, the ship should be dealt with as under paragraph 1.

3. Exceptional sickness or mortality among rats on board any vessel within the district, whatever may have been her port of departure, should be viewed with suspicion and as giving occasion for action similar to that indicated under paragraph 2.

4. Rats, when destroyed on shipboard, should not be handled, they should be at once cremated.

5. In the event of rats on board any ship being found to be infected with plague, all parts of the vessel frequented by those animals should, as far as possible, be disinfected.

6. The authorities of seaport towns invaded by plague should endeavor to secure the destruction of the rats of the town, not least those inhabiting the docks and quayside warehouses. Measures should be taken to guard against shore rats making their way on board vessels lying in the port, and attempt made to destroy all rats on board ships about to proceed on their voyage. Captains of such vessels should be urged to take steps during the ensuing voyage for the destruction of rats that may have remained alive on board their vessels notwithstanding the action of the local authority.

Respectfully,

FRANK H. MASON,
United States Consul-General.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.